The two countries underlined the immense potential for cooperation in Research & Development, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and IT Services.

(c) and (d) A Framework Agreement on Economic Cooperation was signed during this visit. This Agreement envisages a Preferential Trade Agreement between the two sides to be concluded by September, 2005. The Framework Agreement also provides for a Joint Study Group to identify the potential for cooperation between the two countries in trade in goods and services, investments and other areas of economic cooperation.

Villages/Dhanis connecting with all-weather roads under PMGSY

†*580. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Villages/Dhanis having a population of 1000 and more have been linked up with the all-weather roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the year 2003, as per the target set in the programme; and

(b) whether the villages/dhanis having a population of 500 and more (for the desert and tribal areas 250 and more) would be linked up with all-weather roads by the year 2007, if not, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) With the completion of road works cleared upto the year 2003-04 under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana connectivity to all the rural Unconnected Habitations of population 1000 and above in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Goa and Haryana will be completed, excepting those unfeasible due to non-availability of land.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) When the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was approved, the goal was to provide connectivity through good all-weather roads to all Unconnected Habitations in the rural areas with a population of more than 1000 within a period of three years and all Habitations with a population of more than 500 persons, by the end of the Tenth Plan Period. In respect of the Hill States (North-East, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal), Desert Areas and Tribal (Schedule-V) areas, the objective was to connect Habitations with a population of 250 persons and above In the Budget Speech of 2005-06, the Bharat Nirman programme was announced, the Rural Road component of which has a goal to provide connectivity to all villages with a population of 1000 (500 in the case of hilly or tribal areas) and above with an all-weather road by the year 2009. Achievement of Bharat Nirman goals for rural roads requires an investment of about Rs. 48,000 crore and progress in linking Unconnected villages will depend on the budget provisions from year to year.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Export Growth Target for 2005-06

4331. SHRI S.P.M SYED KHAN:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARAYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the overall export growth target fixed by Government for the year 2005-06;

(b) the sector-wise target achieved under the medium term export strategy 2002-07, so far;

(c) whether Government has announced any Export Policy for the year 2005-06; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) A target of US $ 92 billion has been fixed for exports for the year 2005-06.